

He Is an Advocate of Unconventional Warfare

The 'Obsolescent General' Is Back at Job to His Liking

By JIM LUCAS

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Gen. Maxwell Taylor, in his own words, left the Army in 1959 an "obsolescent general."

Today, Gen. Taylor is very much back in the picture.

His job for the next two months will be to review U. S. intelligence, paramilitary and guerrilla warfare capabilities in the light of the Cuban setback. The White House has made it clear, however, that he will go into all phases of "unconventional warfare" as a one-man task force.

To His Liking

This undoubtedly is to Max Taylor's liking. He works best alone. And he long has been an advocate of unconventional warfare. He is convinced the United States is putting too many eggs in the same basket.

He has crusaded for a \$10 billion program to modernize the Army he once headed. He has said that the Joint Chiefs of Staff have become mere puppets, parroting the Administration line, regardless of their convictions.

But until now he has had no official support.

Just what Gen. Taylor will recommend, of course, remains to be seen. But it can be assumed he will recommend a further strengthening of our special (guerrilla) forces, and further emphasis on the only kind of war he thinks we are likely to fight. That is the kind now referred to as "limited war."

High Authority

Gen. Taylor also has authority to go into the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He is no friend of the CIA or of its chief, Allen Dulles. Several years ago, Mr. Dulles persuaded former President Eisenhower to "exile" Lieut. Gen. Arthur Trudeau, then Gen. Taylor's chief of intelligence, to Korea. Gen. Taylor fought hard for his man. As soon as he could, he brought Gen. Trudeau back to Washington as Deputy Chief of Staff for Research and Development, a job he still holds.

As Army chief, Gen. Taylor frequently was in disagreement with other members of the Eisenhower defense team. At one point, Admiral Arthur Radford, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote Gen. Taylor that in his speeches you might like to mention the Army as part of the U. S. armed forces team. Almost any place would do. Gen. Taylor later expressed "shocked disappointment" that former Defense Secretary Neil McElroy brought in Admiral Radford as a special consultant.

His Opposition

Gen. Taylor has always opposed the concept of "massive retaliation." In congressional testimony he once said we have far "too many strategic weapons and weapons systems in the atomic retaliatory force. . . . We



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need hundreds, not thousands. We have thousands."

Gen. Taylor is a handsome, polished fellow, but a hard-as-nails fighting hero, too. He jumped with paratroops into Normandy on D-Day in World War II.

When his 101st Airborne Division was trapped in the Battle of the Bulge, Gen. Taylor, who had been in Washington, slipped in via jeep to rejoin his outfit. A "nut" on physical conditioning, Gen. Taylor eats but two meals a day and plays a flashing game of tennis. He speaks eight languages.

1922 Graduate

Gen. Taylor finished high school in Keytesville, Mo. At 15 he entered West Point

in 1918. He was graduated in 1922, fourth in his class and began his long military career. After retirement he became president of New York's Lincoln Center of Performing Arts.

Gen. Taylor's credo, briefly, is that we must be prepared to fight—or help others fight—small wars. He believes the threat of a big one is remote. So far, President Kennedy has indicated he may agree. The fact he asked Gen. Taylor to write the Cuban critique is therefore significant.

And if CIA and the military intelligence services goofed—as some say—Max Taylor will say so, too. He also is likely to come up with ideas as to what should be done about that.